

'Change a port, you can change the world'

Verdict of Brazilian port official

THE PORT OF RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, was three years ago in the red and supported by a £250,000 per month government subsidy.

Today it is in the black.

Otton Barbosa, Traffic Director of the Port—this week visiting London—gave the facts behind this remarkable change to men vitally concerned in the shipping and docking industries.

Speaking at a dinner in the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, Barbosa said that the Brazilian Minister

of Transport in 1964 turned to ordinary dockworkers trained in MRA and asked them to undertake the recuperation of the port. At that time the government were considering whether to close the port—a nationalised concern—because of its high deficit. The jobs of 20,000 men were at stake.

Barbosa, a founder of the Socialist Party in Rio de Janeiro and an active member of the Brazilian Portworkers' Union, accepted appointment as inspector of the No. 1 berth of the port and later became Traffic Director.

He said Moral Re-Armament had shown him that the in-fighting between rival trade union groups among the dockers was 'magnified self-interest.' He had changed his approach to both his colleagues and enemies. He saw that he had 'made a climate of bitterness in my own home and a climate of bitterness and division in the port which would result in the destruction of the economy of the port and eventually in the destruction of the economy of the nation.'

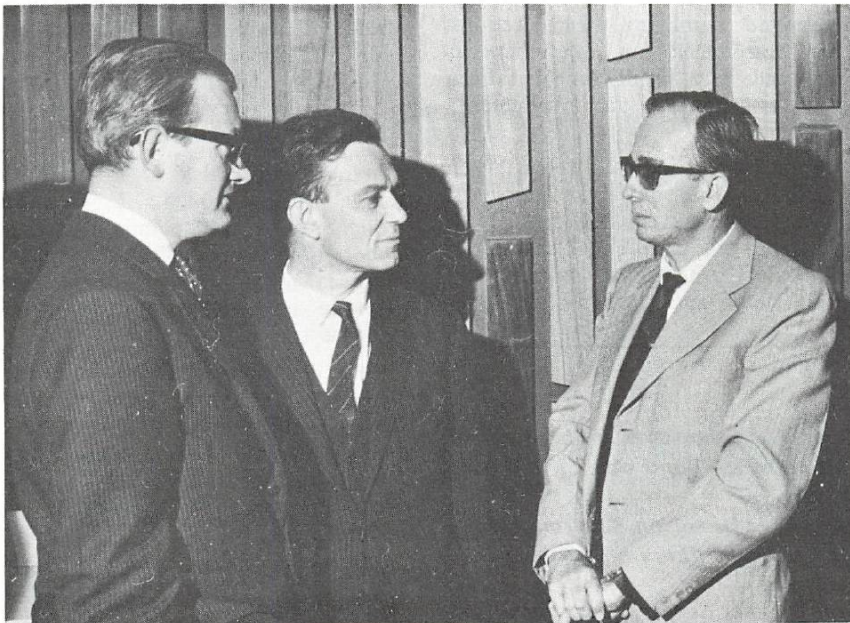
On the port's recuperation he said, 'In eight months during 1965 we doubled the income of the port. It increased from 1.3 billion cruzeiros a month to 3.7 billion. And in 1966 we put up the income a further 35%.' During this period there was no increase in the port dues; in fact the super tariff (an extra charge) was abolished. (The inflation of the Brazilian cruzeiro in the eight months period in 1965 was 30%.

Barbosa and his colleagues strongly attacked corruption and bribery in the port and won the support of 90% of the dockers in this campaign. 'Port taxes used to be negotiated. We put an end to that. The shipping companies used to grease certain people's palms and then port taxes would be lowered and money was lost.'

Another loss of port income was the decline to practically zero of Brazilian coastwise traffic. Firms did not transport their goods by ship along the coast, although the bulk of Brazil's population lives in the coastal region, because of the inefficiency and stealing in the ports. Since the recuperation of the Port of Rio de Janeiro coastal traffic is back to about 40%-50% of what it should be.

'But much more important than the statistics that you can quote is the recovery in the morale of the port and that has brought in its wake better checking, better productivity and more income flowing into the port coffers.'

Barbosa and his colleagues believe what has happened in the Port of Rio is applicable to other ports and industries. He said, 'If you can change a port you can change the world.' One of his colleagues is in Australia meeting the dockers' leaders and will visit Asian ports on his return journey. Another colleague is in Scandinavia and was recently in Holland and Belgium. 'I am convinced that we are going to unite all the ports of the world. The portworkers can unite the world, just as the ports can solve the economic problems of nations.'



Otton Barbosa (right), Traffic Director of the Port of Rio de Janeiro, talks with Brian Rogers (left), British shipping executive, and Laurie Vogel

Photo: Blair

Call for 'changed attitude' in Clyde shipyards

'The Greenock Pictorial' on 11 January published the following article on the occasion of the visit of 'It's our country, Jack!'

A PORT GLASGOW MAN, Mr John Mackenzie, of 54, Brightside Avenue, is convinced that he, and many others like him, have found the solution which Britain needs to once more gear the wheels of her industry towards a prosperous future.

Mr Mackenzie is branch secretary of Lithgow's Boilermakers' Society, and he is playing a leading part in the complete change of attitude which is sweeping through all levels of this famous Port shipyard.

What this man believes in is the need for moral re-armament—not just in Port Glasgow, not just in shipbuilding—but throughout British industry, and for this reason he has become an active member of the 'MRA' the Moral Re-Armament Organisation.

Selfish attitudes

'To get the industry and the country right,' he says, 'we need to get rid of selfish attitudes that block teamwork and production.'

Mr Mackenzie, in his capacity as a union secretary, and a member of MRA, has addressed large assemblies in this country and on the Continent, including France and Switzerland. Wherever he has been, he has found wild enthusiasm for the aims of the organisation.

A Ross Belch, Managing Director of Lithgow's and Mrs Belch met with John Mackenzie, after attending a performance of 'It's our country, Jack!'

Mackenzie was among those inviting the musical to the Clyde. Hundreds of shipyard workers and their wives and families from Lithgow's saw the show in the Port Glasgow Town Hall last week.

Later it visited Aberdeen where 'The Press and Journal' reported: 'The young cast delighted the audience with a series of fast-moving songs and humorous sketches. The aim of the show is to provide top entertainment and to present an idea of what Britain could do in the world today if she really tried.'

Photo: Strong

MRA is, of course, a non-political body, but it is growing rapidly into a striking force, both at home and abroad. John Mackenzie is quick to admit that it has in fact, 'changed his whole way of thinking.'

Like many shipyards, Lithgow's have been subject to demarcation disputes and damaging strike actions. They introduced job inter-changeability and, as a result, time has been saved on the jobs and productivity has increased.

'Four years ago,' said John, 'when a dispute arose, my first course of action was to get out the door. Now this is not the case, and I realise the all round benefits of straightaway sitting down and talking it out.'

'Interchangeability is union policy on paper, but it takes people with the right spirit and changed attitudes to make it work. Of course, there are those who try to obstruct it for personal reasons and try to do their fellow workers out of a job.'

'For me, MRA has changed this attitude. I used to remain silent at union meetings, but now I speak out against what is wrong for the country as a whole, and I will continue to fight for what I think is right for it.'

Right in the thick of a 'wind of change' then, which is blowing strongly along the 'bonnie banks o' Clyde', is a Port Glasgow worker. There is nothing fancy about this man—he is a plain, warm-hearted, generous sort of person.

He is determined, however, that the Clyde, Port Glasgow, Greenock and Britain should continue to thrive as a united nation. MRA has given him a renewed sense of responsibility, new vigour to face the tribulations of modern living.

John Mackenzie is convinced that if he can share this new enlightenment with the entire nation then this crisis which darkens out our country at present could become our answer to the world.



The dilemma of a shop steward in search of a revolution who found one on his own building site.

The story of Les Dennison, Chairman of the Building Trades Workers of Coventry.

Published by the South Wales Voice Ltd. Obtainable from 4 Hays Mews, London W.1, price 2s. 6d. (postage 5d.). Bulk rates are: 6 for 12s. 6d. (postage 1s.); 20 for £2 (postage 2s.); 50 for £4 15s. (postage 5s.).

'Nation may be small but its influence can be great'

Says Uruguayan lawyer

SMALL COUNTRIES like Uruguay, Chile and Cuba have an influence in Latin America far beyond their size, said Omar Ibarogoyen, Uruguayan farmer and lawyer, last week. He was speaking to a London audience.

With its two and a half million people, Ibarogoyen said, Uruguay had avoided dictatorship and maintained democracy. Its cultural life contributed to the continent. It was a centre for international conferences. Political exiles from other Latin American countries made it their home because of its atmosphere of freedom.

Yet it suffered inflation and industrial disputes. People had come to take too easily free education and medical services without producing enough to pay for them. A host of people retired early on state pensions.

Recently, said Ibarogoyen, Uruguay had revised her Constitution and adopted a Presidential system. This would enable urgent measures to be put through swiftly.

The new President, who takes office in March, is General Oscar D Gestido. He says he has gone into politics to put moral standards into political life.

A significant development, said Ibarogoyen, has been combined action by students and workers in producing an ideological play, *Avanlancia*. This would be developed and used round the country. The greatest need of his own and other Latin American countries was for an ideology that would bring unity and enable rich resources to be used for raising living standards.

Chilean influence

Chile was another country, relatively small (eight million) which influenced the continent through its economists and technicians and the capacity of its politicians from President Frei on down. The Christian Democracy he stood for was a powerful force in Latin America.

Cuba was steadily on the offensive. In January last year representatives of 82 countries met in a three-continent conference to plan the extension of Communism.

Cuban-published literature in Spanish had been coming into Uruguay

till recently at 120 tons a month via the Soviet Embassy. Montevideo, the capital, was a distribution point for much of Latin America.

In Venezuela's capital, Caracas, a city of two million, machine guns, bombs and plans for an uprising had reportedly been found in the university, which had a mile-long underground tunnel to the city's centre.

Future action

For the future Mr Ibarogoyen believed that action by youth and labour would play an important part.

Recent reports show that Venezuelan youth, who saw the US youth musical *Up With People* when the President of Venezuela was host, had the première of their own musical *Sing-Out Venezuela* last week in Caracas with the American Ambassador in the front row of the audience. A cast of 200 from the main universities put it on. The Defence Minister asked them to cover the major military bases of the country with it.

Brazilian dockers had recently been

BRAZILIAN PORTWORKERS SEND MESSAGE TO AUSTRALIA

WALTER MENESEZ, President of the National Federation of Brazilian Portworkers, sent a message to the MRA conference in Melbourne this month which was read by Claudio Falcao, former Secretary of the Grand Committee of the Portworkers' Union.

Menezes's message said, 'At this time when workers are meeting to discover sound ways of changing social thinking, to bring brotherhood between all peoples and bring effective social justice; when workers and employers feel the need to fight shoulder to shoulder for the development of their nations and the preservation of democratic ideas, the portworkers of Brazil, through their largest trade union organisation, greet the delegates of this conference.'

in Britain, Switzerland and Australia. Their film *Men of Brazil* was being shown on several continents.

Work at creating a new moral climate, reaching the millions via TV and Press, bringing MRA to the armed forces would continue said Mr Ibarogoyen.

Souvenir Programme available

'It's our country, Jack!'

WORDS BY ALAN THORNHILL MUSIC BY PENelope THORNHILL

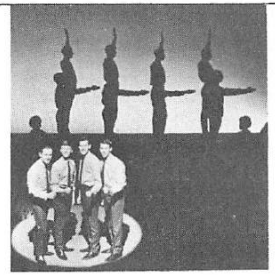
It's our country, Jack! It's our country, Jack! It's up to us, to
know when clear has brought us here, And there ain't no turn-
ing back.

It's our country, Jack! It's our country, Jack! Ev'ry one of us,
white and black. It's the To-ris, yes, and La-bour too, it be-
longs to me, it belongs to you. It's our country, Jack!

It's our country, Jack! It's our country, Jack! It's up to us, so
let's at-tack! It's our strength, yes, and our sta-ry too, It's our
great-ness, yes, and our gra-ry too, It's our coun-try, Jack!

It's our coun-try, our coun-try, our coun-try, Jack!

© Copyright: words by Alan Thornhill, music by Penelope Thornhill



Noah and Sons

Down, down and pasture,
Three capital words of power,
And a word more too,
Oh for the sake of me,
When the day comes on side,
To build an ark,
As the rain comes on,
And the water come to flood.

Chorus
Oh, Noah, build that ark,
Build that ark, please,
That's what you
Must do when the ark
With a heavy load,
You're carrying a load,
You're carrying a load,
You're carrying a load,

Oh Noah, see the plumbline,
And the water level rise,
And the water level rise,
You're carrying a load,
You're carrying a load,

Well, did he get them started,
Though they were part of him,
But they were not a part,
For they were not a part,
For they were not a part,
For they were not a part.

Then they get on the ark,
And they get on the ark,
And they get on the ark,
And they get on the ark,
And they get on the ark,
And they get on the ark.

It's our coun-try, our coun-try, our coun-try, Jack!

Something to sing about

We've got something to sing about,
Something to sing about,
Something to sing about,
Something to sing about,
Something to sing about,
Something to sing about.

A hundred per cent

A hundred per cent we are asking,
A hundred per cent we are asking,
A hundred per cent we are asking,
A hundred per cent we are asking,
A hundred per cent we are asking,
A hundred per cent we are asking.

A 16-page souvenir programme of 'It's our country, Jack!', which contains words and music of several songs, is available from 4 Hays Mews, W1. Price 2s 6d (postage 6d)

KENYA

'HARAMBEE AFRICA' has been presented to three units of the Kenya Army at the Gilgil Base, 80 miles from Nairobi. Captain Kuruto, the adjutant of the base, introducing the performance, said, 'We know of your reputation and the importance of what you are doing and what you have to say. We have read about you in the Press and seen you on television. That is why we were eager for you to come here.'

The musical has also been featured three times recently on Voice of Kenya Television.

PHILIPPINES

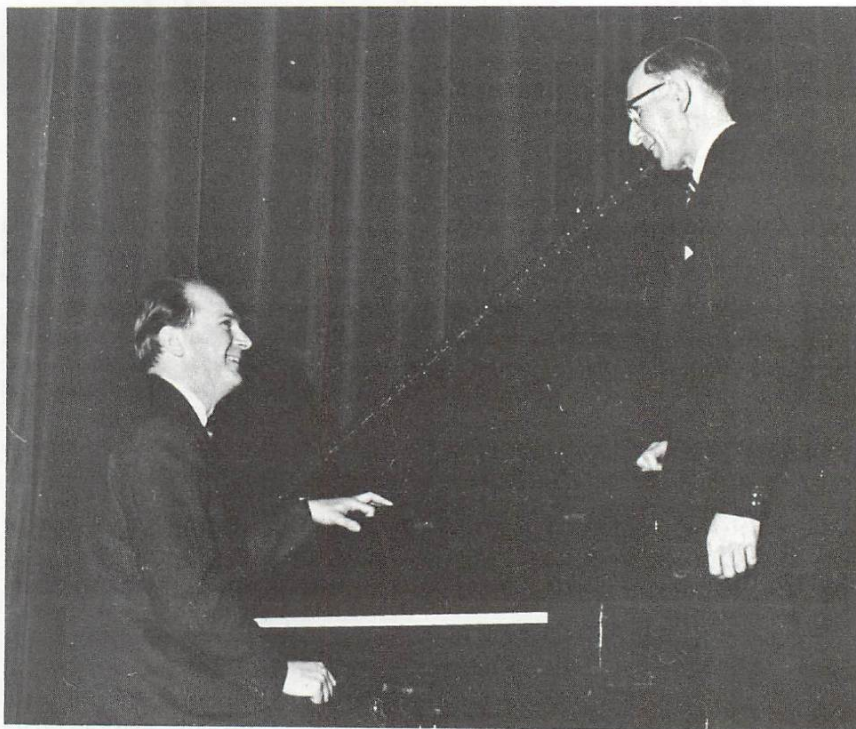
PRESIDENT MARCOS of the Philippines received the cast of the Japanese musical *Let's Go '67* in the Malacanang Palace, Manila. Applause from the Cabinet Ministers, generals and other leaders present greeted the cast when they sang in Tagalog, the main Filipino language. The President said, 'You give me great hope. Please march on and reach the hearts of millions.'

Students of the Far Eastern University packed their 2,000 seat auditorium for a performance. Two thousand students of Santo Tomas Catholic University also filled their auditorium. The Rector, Raymond Diaz, Vice-President of the World Federation of Catholic Universities, said, 'These young people will succeed where we of the older generation have failed to make this a happy continent'.

CEYLON

THE PRESIDENT of the Ceylon Senate, Senator Ratnayake, gave a reception last week for Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the visiting West Indies Cricket XI.

The reception, which took place in the Senate, was attended by the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Transport, Members of Parliament and businessmen. Hunte spoke on Moral Re-Armament.



Concert pianist John Bigg (left) and Dr William Reed, Arts Centre Musical Director
Photo: Blair

Arts Centre music programme begins

JOHN BIGG gave the first of two inaugural recitals at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre last Sunday. His second recital is on 19 February.

Dr William L Reed, Director of Music at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, announces further Sunday events in the Music Programme:

On 9 April Miss Imogen Holst, daughter of Gustav Holst, composer of 'The Planets', will talk about her father's career and music. She is bringing her own singers, the Purcell Consort of Voices, who will illustrate her talk. They will present three songs of Holst which have never been sung before. Miss Viola Tunnard will play two works of Holst, who was a pioneer of English folk song, musical education and composition.

On 7 May Miss Ruth Largesen, Norwegian pianist and specialist in Grieg music will give a programme of the great Norwegian composer's works.

On 4 June Eric Fenby, author of 'Delius as I knew him', will give a programme of the music of Frederick Delius.

On 2 July Robert Layton, author of a recent book on Sibelius, will present a concert of the Finnish master's music.

All performances will start at 3 pm.

Modern training course

PEOPLE of 19 nations have taken part in the opening sessions of an MRA training course in 'Leadership for the Modern World' at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre.

The course aims to develop character and leadership, to give an informed perspective on world affairs and to challenge young men and women to take responsibility for its future. It is specially designed for the youth of Britain and young men and women who are in Britain for study and work from the Commonwealth, the continent and overseas.

The course director is C Russell Carpenter, MA, Dip Ed.